is alive to the situation and have taken various measures for restoring normalcy on one hand and containing terrorist/ secessionist activities on the other.

**Indians in Pakistani jails**

212. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what was the number of Indians in Pakistani jails as on 15th July, 1990; and

(b) what steps Government are taking to secure their release?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) 956.

(b) Efforts to get the Indian prisoners released from Pakistani jails continue. Pursuant to the agreement reached with Pakistan during bilateral talks held last February, all 119 fishermen then in custody in Pakistan were released on 24 and 25 March, 1990. Subsequently 58 Indian civilian prisoners were repatriated on June 7, 1990.

**Presidents assent to Kerala bills**

213. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons for in-ordinate delay in according Presidential assent to the Kerala Casual, Temporary and Badli Workers (Wages) Bill passed by the Kerala Legislative Assembly on the 10th August, 1977 and sent to the Central Government in October, 1977 for the assent of the President; and

(b) the position regarding the Kerala Land Reforms (Amendment) Bill, 1980 and the Kerala Blind School Society, Alwaye (Taking over of Management) Bill, 1987?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY) (a) and (b) A statement indicating the position of the 3 Kerala Bills, is enclosed. (*See* below)

**Statement**

(1) *The Kerala Casual, Temporary and Badli Workers (Wages) Bill*, 1977.

In October, 1977, the Secretary to the Governor of Kerala forwarded the above Bill for obtaining the assent of the President. The issues involved therein entailed prolonged consultation with the various Central Ministries concerned and also the State Govt. Finally, its was decided that the Bill in the form in which it was reserved for the consideration of the President could not be assented to. Accordingly, by his directive dated 18.3.89, the President was pleased to direct the Governor of Kerala to return the Bill to the State Legislature with a message that it may reconsider the Bill and suitably amend it to provide that the law shall not apply to any establishment, factory, plantation, motor-transport undertaking or other undertaking belonging to or under the control of the Central Government.

In October, 1989, the Secretary to the Governor of Kerala forwarded a Bill on the subject as passed by the State Legislature with the modifications suggested in the aforesaid message. The President assented to that Bill on 14-1-90 and this was conveyed to the State Government.

(2) *The Kerala Blind School Society, Alwaye (Taking Over of Management) Bill*, 1987.

In December, 1987, the Secretary to the Governor of Kerala forwarded the above Bill for the consideration of the President. As the Bill was not considered to be constitutionally and legally valid, it could not be assented to. The President with-held his assent from the Bill on 8.9.89 and this was intimated to the State Government.

(3) *The Kerala Land Reforms (Amendment) Bill*, 1980.

In April, 1980, the Secretary to the Governor of Kerala forwarded the above Bill for the consideration of the President. The Bill was not considered to

be constitutionally valid, and the State Government desired to withdraw it. The President with-held his assent from the Bill on 28-2-85 and this was intimated to the State Government.

**Sri Lankan Tamil refugees leaving camps in Bhubaneshwar**

214. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Sri Lanka Tamil refugees are abandoning their camps in Bhubaneswar for going to camps in Tamil Nadu: and

(b) if so, the number of refugees who have left Bhubaneswar camps so far and the number of refugees who are still there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b). Sri Lankan Tamil refugees were lodged in camps in Malkangiri in District Koraput and not in Bhubaneswar, 1176 refugees have left the camps in Orissa and 433 refugees are still there in these camps.

**Appearance of VIPs in New Bulletins in Doordarshan**

215. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) The number of times the Prime Minister, the Dy. Prime Minister and the Minister of Information and Broadcasting had appeared in news Bulletins in Doordarshan during the last two months; and

(b) the reasons of such frequent visuals of such VIP's?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) The visuals of the Prime Minister the former Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Information and Broadcasting were shown on 67, 2 and 6 occasions respectively in the various news bulletins telecast on Doordarshan's national network during the months of May and June, 1990.

(b) The focus in the news coverage is on the importance of the event and not on the individuals. The inclusion of visuals is, therefore, made strictly on the basis of the news value of the event. Considering the number of news buletins daily telecast in the nationnal nework of Doordarshan, the number of occasions on which the visual coverage of the aforesaid political personalities was included cannot in any way be termed to be too frequent.

**Restricted area permit in NE region**

216. DR. NAGEN SAIKIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the restricted area permit for foreigners in the North East region is proposed to be lifted;

(b) if so, by when; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Various factors like proximity to the International Border, general Law and Order situation, sensitivity of the States and presence of insurgent elements etc., are the reasons for not lifting the restricted area permit for foreigners in the North East region.

**जम्मू और कश्मीर तथा पंजाब में राजनीतिक प्रक्रिया**

217. श्री अनन्त राम जायसवाल :
श्री बलराम सिंह यादव :
श्री राम नरेश यादव :

क्या गृह मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार पंजाब तथा जम्मू और कश्मीर में राज-